Shifting of utility service staff to other sections

213. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether DoT in Hyderabad proposes to shift staff from utility service like '197' to other sections;

(b) if so, the reasons for neglecting the public utility service; and

(c) the action taken to update Directory Information and prompt '197' service in view of ever changing numbers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Sir, with the commissioning of DOTSOFT which is an integrated customer care and Billing Software Package, Directory Information '197' service is now updated promptly and regularly.

Financial irregularities in FCI

†214. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for not taking any action against the officers and employees found guilty of financial irregularities to the tune of crores of rupees, in vigilance inquiry, in Food Corporation of India despite the order of High Court;

(b) whether Government intend to settle this matter; and

(c) if not, the steps taken so far by the Government to ensure action against the guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (c) The question is not specific as neither the name of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

the High Court nor the subject matter nor the date of the order has been mentioned. However, in pursuance of the orders of the Punjab and Haryana Court dated 25.7.1997 in PIL No. 915/97, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) registered 13 cases *viz.* seven in Punjab and 6 in Haryana Region. The investigation in all the above cases has been completed by CBI. Action against the guilty officials, as recommended by CBI, has been taken.

Sale of foodgrains meant for BPL

215. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large quantity of foodgrains meant for BPL families are sold in the open market;

(b) if so, the manner in which Government plan to stop such malpractices;

(c) what punishment Government impose on such traders; and

(d) the number of traders who were punished during the current year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (d) No Sir. In the event of diversion of foodgrains supplied under Public distribution System (PDS), action is liable in terms of Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001. Violations are punishable under Section 7 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

Rejection of consignment from USA

216. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has rejected a large consignment of Soya-Corn blend from the U.S.A.;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;

(c) whether the consignment has been referred to the Genetic Engineering Committee; and